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MR 3-29-99

S. C. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
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MAR 26 1999  
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DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

DAVID A. LAVIGNE

ON BEHALF OF

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

DOCKET NO. 1999-002-E

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS AND POSITION  
WITH SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY (SCE&G).

A. My name is David A. Lavigne. My business address is  
Post Office Box 88, Jenkinsville, South Carolina. I am  
employed by SCE&G as the General Manager, Nuclear Support  
Services at the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS).

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND  
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

A. I have a B. S. Degree in Management from the University  
of South Carolina. I possess a Senior Reactor Operator  
Certification. I spent six years in the Navy Nuclear Power  
Program including assignment on a nuclear submarine. I have  
been employed by SCE&G since January 1977. I have held  
positions of Quality Assurance Specialist; Associate  
Manager, Quality Assurance; Manager Nuclear Quality Control;

RETURN DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SERVICE: OK MR

1 Manager, Materials and Procurement; General Manager, Nuclear  
2 Safety; and have held my present position of General  
3 Manager, Nuclear Support Services, since January 1994.  
4 In this position I am responsible for Nuclear  
5 Licensing and Operating Experience activities, the major  
6 quality and technical overview activities for the safe  
7 operation of V. C. Summer Nuclear Station, physical security  
8 and emergency planning of the station, Nuclear and Craft  
9 Training, and the facilities and administrative  
10 organizations.

11 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

12 **A.** The purpose of my testimony is to review the operating  
13 performance of the VCSNS during the period March 1, 1998 to  
14 February 28, 1999.

15 **Q. WHAT ARE YOUR MAJOR OBJECTIVES IN THE OPERATION OF THE**  
16 **VCSNS?**

17 **A.** At the VCSNS we strive to maintain the highest level of  
18 performance consistent with maximum safety consideration.  
19 Our corporate mission, with respect to all plants, is safe,  
20 reliable, efficient operation. We emphasize safety  
21 continuously and, to that end, we meet or exceed all Nuclear  
22 Regulatory Commission ("NRC") requirements and Institute of  
23 Nuclear Power Operations ("INPO") standards.  
24 Our performance objective for Nuclear fuel procurement has  
25 been to reduce the overall cost through contract negotiations,

1 which also have reduced the lead time for purchasing the fuel.

2 Q. WHAT HAS BEEN THE COMPANY'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE PERFORMANCE  
3 OF THE VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION?

4 A. The VCSNS has performed extremely well during the period of  
5 March 1, 1998 to February 28, 1999. During this period, the  
6 unit capacity factor was 101.2 percent outside of maintenance  
7 downpowers. With maintenance activities included, the capacity  
8 factor was 99.515 percent. The unit availability was 100  
9 percent and the forced outage rate was 0.0 percent.

10 For comparative purposes, INPO tracks nuclear plant capability  
11 factors. A graph is attached to show how the Virgil C. Summer  
12 Nuclear Station compares to the rest of the industry as  
13 of the end of February 1999 Exhibit No. \_\_\_ (DAL-1).

14 Q. WHEN WILL THE NEXT REFUELING OCCUR?

15 A. April 3, 1999 through May 2, 1999

16 Q. WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT RATING BY THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
17 COMMISSION AND THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR POWER OPERATIONS?

18 A. The Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance system (SALP)  
19 is an NRC program used to periodically measure how well a  
20 Licensee is implementing NRC regulations. The results are  
21 provided in numeric form with a 1.0 as the best grade. The  
22 SALP assesses a Licensee's performance in four areas:  
23 maintenance, operations, engineering, and plant support. The  
24 NRC completed a comprehensive review of the V. C. Summer  
25 Nuclear Station in July 1998. We received an overall grade of

1 1.0 in the report dated August 26, 1998. In July 1997, the  
2 station also recieved an INPO rating of 1, which is the highest  
3 possible rating.

4 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

5 A. Yes

# Performance Index Trend (Station Values)

